

HURSTVILLE SENIORS COMPUTER CLUB

www.hurstvillescc.org.au



“keeping up with our grandchildren”

NEWSLETTER

January 2011

Member of ASCCA.

Australian Seniors
Computer Clubs
Association

REMINDER: Because of Australia Day, our January meeting will be at **1.30pm** on **Wednesday 19th January**. We ask all members to attend this first meeting of the year.



The Committee will meet at 10.30am.

May this be a very successful computing year! Let us not “keep UP” with our grandchildren but rather “keep AHEAD” of them.



During the past year the waiting list has been significantly reduced and we have accommodated many new applicants. The waiting list is a monitor of the demand for computer skills amongst Seniors and demonstrates the popularity of our Club.

This is going to be another innovative and exciting year for our Club, thanks to our dedicated Committee and Tutors who do a selfless job with great enthusiasm and pleasure. Inevitably they will have to deal with the new computer products hitting the markets; Blue Tooth, Red Hat, Blue-Ray, Blackberry and of course Windows 7 and the innovative Cloud Computing. We thank them all.

Many members use GMAIL as their email client. This is an excellent example of Cloud Computing - more about this in later editions of the newsletter.

PRESIDENT'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE

The President and Committee wish all members and their families a happy and successful New Year.

We hope everyone had an enjoyable festive season and you are ready to continue to master technology with us. For those of you who were able to meet with the family we hope that it was a wonderful time.

The club's Christmas Afternoon Tea was well attended and all present had an enjoyable time. We welcome new and old members back to a New Year of excitement and learning. Let us hope that we learn new technologies, new techniques and improve our abilities in using computers.

President *Pamela Samuels*

NOVEMBER MEETING

Our last meeting was a ripping success thanks to the Committee and regular members. A special thanks to **Sunny Liang** of **Step One Technology** in Woodville Street, Hurstville, who generously donated a 22 inch computer monitor and a 500 GB external hard drive which were won by **Nancy Soan**, and **Don Heap** respectively.

We are sure the winners will put them to good use.

CLUB NEWS 2011

We can look forward to interesting and computer relevant Guest Speakers at our monthly meetings.

New courses on offer include Picasa, improve your Excel skills and a new Digital Photography basic course.

ASCCA

Congratulations to the winners in the ASCCA Digital Photography competition.

Highly Commended Awards went to -

Shirley Payne



and

Jean McCormick

IS ANYTHING MORE PRECIOUS THAN YOUR SIGHT?

Our Guest Speaker this month will be Ms **Racheda Chea**, a representative of the Macular Degeneration Foundation (Australia).

Macular Degeneration (MD) is the leading cause of blindness in Australia, affecting central vision.

MD is primarily age related and most frequently affects people over the age of 50. One in seven people over the age of 50 are affected by the disease and the incidence increases with age. It is sometimes referred to as Age Related Macular Degeneration or 'AMD'.

MD is responsible for 48% of severe vision loss in Australia.

The incidence of Wet MD in Australia is an estimated 17,700 new cases each year.

Risk Factors

MD is hereditary with a 50% chance of MD developing if a family history of MD is present.

Studies have shown that those who smoke are 3 times more at risk of developing MD. Smokers may also develop MD about 10 years earlier than non-smokers

The cost to the community will be \$59 billion over the next 20 years.

These are just a few of the salient facts about Macular Degeneration. If you love your vision, go to:

www.mdfoundation.com.au

for more information.

WEB DESIGN INTEREST GROUP

Classes will resume in February 2011 in the Annexe. The Beginner's Class will be held on Wednesday 2nd February and the Advanced Class on Wednesday 16th February, with both classes commencing at 1.30pm.

Vacancies exist in both classes. Contact mail@fredscott.net with any queries.

NEW LOOK WEB SITE

The work is finished and the new look Club web site is up and running.

The major change is to the opening page, which has been completely redesigned by Geoff Turton. It now has a modern, fresh appearance which is much more attractive - thanks Geoff.

The remaining pages have a slight cosmetic upgrade but the content is basically unchanged.

Have a look at

www.hurstvillescc.org.au

and see what you think.

INTERNET CLASS

After many years in exile, the Internet Class is returning to the Club Room. Sessions will be held at 91 Queens Road on Mondays starting on the 7th of February 2011. First class 1.30pm to 2.30pm, second class 2.45pm to 3.45pm. Interested parties should contact Frank at either

admin@hurstvillescc.org.au

or

surfervp@hurstvillescc.org.au

The Surfer



Frank Grosz, at head of table, in blue shirt, presiding at the Christmas break-up party of the Thursday Internet Class, which was held at Club Rivers.

HURSTVILLE CITY COUNCIL SENIORS WEEK

Hurstville City Council will be running their Seniors Week in March and will offer their usual excellent, entertaining and informative programme.

Our club will make a contribution to this event so please attend and volunteer to help when needed.



NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

It's the New Year! A fresh start, a new beginning; time to sweep away the mistakes of the past to bring on the new you of the future. I am sure that you have made all sorts of New Year Resolutions, such as to quit smoking, to lose weight, to learn more, to spend less and save more and to help others.

But there are a few more computer related resolutions.

By your making these resolutions and sticking to them, you should experience less hassle using your computer and accessing the Internet, perform fewer mistakes that result in praying you have made recent backups of your files, and hopefully reduce the chances your computer slows down, has pop-up advertisements randomly appear, or experiences other symptoms of spyware and malware attacks. Here they are:

1) I will read all dialog and warning boxes when they appear.

This is extremely helpful for tutors who attempt to help students who often have very vague and unhelpful explanations of their computer problems

2) I will save my files often.

Many software programs, like the Microsoft Office suite, have Autosave features that make backups every few minutes of what I am doing in case something unthinkable happens, like a power surge. Relying on Autosave is a risky game.

3) I will make backups of my files more than once a year.

I will make multiple backups because CD-ROMs, DVD-ROMs, and other removable media have a limited shelf life or can get damaged - hard drive / flash drive failure, operating system failure and so on. There are many free and reliable backup programmes easily available.

4) I will describe my problems clearly when asking for help (important if you want Tutors to effectively help you)

I will make it as easy as possible for others to help me, as tutors are volunteers only have a limited amount of time. I will provide at least the following information: the operating system, exact error warnings, recently installed software etc, etc...

5) I will keep my software and operating system up-to-date.

I will update my operating system, web browsers, antivirus software, plug-ins, and other software regularly. Although doing so can be a hassle, it is still less of a problem than dealing with a virus or other malware attack and possibly losing all my files.

6) I won't install everything I see and then wonder why my computer is running slow.

Although the Internet is packed with untold amounts of software, web browser toolbars, screensavers, etc., I won't install everything I find. Doing so might slow down my computer or parts of it, like my web browser, or make it unstable.

7) I will not believe everything I read via electronic mail.

Although human beings want to be trusting, the Nigerian scammers are well known and they are still catching naïve Australians. I have to realize that the world does contain scammers and miscreants; thus, I cannot believe everything I read via electronic mail. Some examples of things I must think twice about before believing:

8) I will understand the risk of security questions.

Although security questions are used by websites to help us re-obtain or reset forgotten passwords, they are also an opening for hackers to gain access to our account. It has been done before, even to vice-presidential candidates. If I have a system to securely store passwords (hopefully encrypted), I will treat security question answers just like passwords and not type personal information that can be easily guessed or found out over the Internet.

9) I will try out other web browsers.

I am not limited to the web browser that came with my computer. There are other options on the Internet such as Firefox, Google Chrome, and Opera, and I might want to consider trying these and other free alternatives. Switching to another browser might make my web surfing safer, and/or it might introduce new features that make surfing the web more useful and fun. Versions of the this article have appeared on numerous websites.

The above is a broad adaptation of the original...Henri

